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WASHINGTON

The Senate Test Ploy

by Kenneth Crawford



STATINTL

Nations paid much attention late last May when Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Sen. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut introduced a resolution advocating agreement among the big-three atomic powers to halt bomb testing in the atmosphere, on the fringes of space, and underwater—but not on the ground. The idea was that such tests could be detected by means other than on-site inspections. Since Premier Khrushchev professed desire for an agreement without inspection, perhaps he would accept the proposal, so Humphrey and Dodd argued. They were persuasive enough to get 32 other sponsors for their resolution, including six Republicans.

But they didn't succeed in generating enthusiastic confidence. It was recalled that Khrushchev had once rejected out of hand a similar proposal by President Eisenhower. Moreover, influential voices in this country, even within the government, had been raised against cessation of atmospheric testing. The Pentagon itself was divided, top civilian officials favoring a test ban and the uniformed Joint Chiefs opposing. So the Humphrey-Dodd resolution was a one-day wonder. The strange bedfellowship—Humphrey, the ebullient New Frontiersman, with Dodd, the fiercely dogged anti-Communist—attracted as much attention as the substance of their scheme.

K'S RESPONSE

The resolution had been all but forgotten by the time President Kennedy delivered his June commencement address at American University, announcing that the U.S. would suspend atmospheric tests pending broad re-exploration of cold-war terrain. Khrushchev responded to the President's address by declaring in a speech in East Berlin that he was prepared to enter into the limited arms agreement Humphrey and Kennedy suggested several weeks earlier.

Was this coincidence? The senators shrewdly switch Khruschev switch known something are guessing the who had been can

had a feeling when he prepared the American University address that the Soviet leader was ready to talk test ban. Further speculation is that Khrushchev may have needed some reassurance that the U.S. Senate, source of so much harsh criticism of the Soviet Union, would not reject a treaty embodying the president on tests if one were made. The President, too, may have wanted a reading on Senate opinion.

TEAM

It is not the plan of the President to ask all voters on foreign policy, but the plan is to take it. Dodd whose credentials as a doubter of Soviet trustworthiness are impressive, was the ideal partner for Humphrey. If Dodd could be persuaded of the reliability of existing detection devices, anybody could be. Whether the Humphrey-Dodd play was planned this way, or merely happened, the upshot is that one-third of the Senate (a two-thirds vote is needed to ratify a treaty) is pre-committed to ratification.

With this running start, it would seem that the Administration need not worry too much about ratification of the treaty following the Humphreys formula is submitted. A recent Harris poll showed 73 per cent of all people disposed to approve the treaty of opinion among experts on atomic weaponry, the latter group excluded, seems to be about equal, leaving room for uncertainty. Democrats would tend to support the West's present lead. Whether the final fallout would

disenters. Atomic scientist, is a member of Congress that the U.S. is ahead in atomic energy. He has an anti-Communist U.S. security registration. He is testing. He is a general leader full of the U.S. Adminis- tration. Last week's "Ev- ert's resignation- was a triumphism for the U.S." Yet he was down to a U.S. (OP) would